

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-10

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EUR/P - MR. GEHRON

EUR/NE - MR. WORREL

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P R 212305Z JAN 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: PRESS GUIDANCE ON FINANCIAL TIMES STORIES ON
USG-PLO DIALOGUE

REFS: (A) LONDON 763; (B) LONDON 863; (C) LONDON 952

THE FOLLOWING GUIDANCE HAS BEEN SUPPLIED TO THE DEPARTMENT
SPOKESMAN FOR USE IN ANSWERING PRESS QUERIES ABOUT THE
FINANCIAL TIMES STORIES ON AN ALLEGED USG-PLO DIALOGUE
THROUGH INTERMEDIARIES, AND YOU MAY DRAW ON IT AS
REQUIRED. QUESTIONS HAVE NOT COME UP AT NOON BRIEFINGS,
BUT GUIDANCE HAS BEEN USED IN ANSWERING INDIVIDUAL PRESS
QUERIES, SOME OF THEM FROM BRITISH CORRESPONDENTS.

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QUOTE

Q. IS IT TRUE, AS REPORTED IN THE LONDON FINANCIAL TIMES, THAT THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT HAS PASSED MESSAGES BACK AND FORTH TO THE PLO LEADERSHIP, SPECIFICALLY ARAFAT, THROUGH AN AMERICAN COLLEGE PROFESSOR FROM CONNECTICUT?

A. WHILE INDIVIDUALS COME TO US FROM TIME TO TIME PURPORTING TO CARRY MESSAGES FROM THE PLO, I CAN STATE CATEGORICALLY

AND WITHOUT QUALIFICATION THAT THE REPORTS IN THESE STORIES ABOUT EITHER THE EXISTENCE OR TB SUBSTANCE OF A PURPORTED DIALOGUE BETWEEN THE USG AND THE PLO ARE TOTALLY INCORRECT. AS THE FIRST STORY ITSELF SAYS, THE U.S. HAS NEVER AUTHORIZED ANYONE TO ACT, FORMALLY OR INFORMALLY, AS AN EMISSARY ON ITS BEHALF TO THE PLO. WE HAVE NO CONTACTS WITH THE PLO.

Q. WELL, COULD A VISITOR TO THE DEPARTMENT, AFTER TALKING HERE, HAVE PASSED OFF AMERICAN OFFICIALS' REACTION TO WHAT HE HAD TO SAY AS A RESPONSE TO WHAT THE PLO HAD TOLD HIM? IN OTHER WORDS, WERE INFORMAL MESSAGES PASSED BACK AND FORTH?

A. LET'S NOT PLAY WITH WORDS HERE. WE HAVE NO CONTROL OVER WHAT A PRIVATE PERSON MAY SAY TO ANY PARTY HE MEETS. WHAT I AM SAYING IS THAT THE USG IS NOT CONDUCTING A DIALOGUE WITH THE PLO IN THIS OR ANY OTHER WAY. SISCO

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